

FORM No. 65.
FOREST DEPARTMENT, NORTHERN CIRCLE.
Financial Results of the year 1894-95.

Division.	TIMBER AND OTHER PRODUCE REMOVED FROM THE FORESTS BY GOVERNMENT AGENCY.		OTHER REVENUE.		FORMATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF FORESTS.	TOTAL.		REMARKS.
	Receipts.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
East Thána... ..	995	60	2,15,560	3,916	69,874	2,16,555	73,850	
West Thána	1,378	284	3,72,401	6,728	62,814	3,73,779	69,826	
Surat	36,742	12,425	30,958	29,667	39,409	67,700	81,501	
Panch Maháls	12,416	437	68,229	7,711	42,606	80,645	50,754	
Total	51,531	13,206	6,87,148	48,022	2,14,708	7,38,679	2,75,931	

Bándra, 24th October 1895.

R. C. WROUGHTON,
Deputy Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.

No. 198 of 1896.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

*Office of the Commissioner, N. D.,**Ahmedabad, 18th January 1896.*

Forwarded.

2. The Northern Circle has during the year been under the administration of Mr. Wroughton, who submits the report.

3. Paragraphs 2 and 8 show the changes in the State forest area, but the particulars given in paragraph 2 "a large proportion is due to rectification of the records of the Forest Settlement Officer on whose report the change is made" is hardly a sufficient explanation of the large decrease in protected forest over and above the area transferred to Reserved Forest, nor do the forms 46 and 46 A supply the deficiency.

4. The progress made during the year in forest settlement and demarcation was slow, but this was chiefly due to Mr. Orr's bad health. The only work now remaining to be done is the completion of the settlement of Murbád and demarcation and settlement of Shahápur. There need not be much delay or trouble in connection with the acquisition of lands, as it appears that negotiations have been completed or are nearly so in most cases. The whole work should be completed by the end of the current year as anticipated.

5. The cost of the forest survey seems heavy, though apparently the rate is less than last year. The figures for area surveyed in detail are wrongly printed and should be 55.57 and not 5,557 square miles.

6. Mr. Millet's visit to the Panch Maháls has resulted in a scheme having been drawn up for working the Godhra forests. The progress made in Thána in marking coupes on the ground is more satisfactory as 255 coupes were marked out against 155. This is, however, a slow rate as remarked by the Conservator.

7. The total expenditure incurred on buildings and communications amounted to Rs. 10,100, of which Rs. 9,045 were spent on the former and Rs. 1,055 only on the latter. The Commissioner would be glad to see more expenditure incurred on communications.

8. With reference to paragraph 31 the Commissioner would reiterate his remark in paragraph 7 of his review of last year's report, as regards the insufficiency of the protective establishment.

9. There has been an increase in offences against the Forest law both as regards cases taken into Court and those reported as undetected; but it is satisfactory to find the proportion of failures in the former has fallen from 38 to 31 per cent. Similarly, cases compounded also show an increase, but of the 451 such cases the amount of compensation paid did not exceed Rs. 2 in 327.

10. The most interesting part of the report is that on fire protection. Mr. Wroughton has now been long enough in charge of the Division to thoroughly understand the practical working of the system. The Commissioner considers that they call for the serious attention of Government. The result of the experiment of employing temporary fire protective establishments may perhaps be awaited before more drastic measures are adopted. But the Commissioner understands that Mr. Cappel is in agreement with the Conservator. There appears to be good reason to believe that the fires are largely due to the custom of burning the jungles for purposes of sport. The number of gun licenses in Thána was enormously increased by Mr. Sinclair, and there can be no objection to refusing renewals in villages where the reserves have been burnt. The efforts made by Mr. Wallinger in the Mándvi Taluka deserve commendation. His failure has been clearly explained by the Conservator. It is to be hoped that he will be more successful in the Panch Maháls, to which he has been recently transferred.

11. The number of cattle impounded continues to be moderate, but there is no doubt that the number impounded in Thána is disproportionately small as remarked by the Conservator.

12. In paragraph 53 the Conservator gives an alarming account of the state of natural reproduction, and if fire protection is not more efficient, the result will be complete denudation in a few years.

13. The departmental operations were very limited, but the amount of timber, junglewood, firewood and charcoal removed by contractors from the Thána forests is very considerable, showing that the demand, in spite of large cuttings having been made in Jowhár and Dharampor, continues unabated. The coupe system in Thána works well, as only 15 of the 143 coupes for sale remained unsold, while six of the previous year were taken up. The sales of timber were considerably less than the previous year in both Surat and the Panch Maháls, but more firewood was removed by purchasers in the former. There was also a large falling off in the realizations from the sale of bamboos in Surat. The reason for this is explained in paragraph 86.

14. The financial results show a surplus of Rs. 4,62,749 against Rs. 4,96,007; this, considering the large loss referred to in paragraph 95, is very satisfactory. The fluctuations have been fully explained by the Conservator, both on the receipt as well as the expenditure side.

15. The extracts from the Collectors' reviews contain some important points, the chief among them, relating to the Thána forests, is the re-afforestation of cleared compartments so frequently and emphatically referred to by the Conservator of Forests in his remarks; the Collector also refers to the need for increased establishment. The Collector of the Panch Maháls notices several important matters and as attention has been drawn to them, the Conservator will, no doubt, take such remedial measures as may be possible. The Collector's remarks in paragraph 10 are sufficiently serious to call for immediate action, and as Mr. Wroughton has recently inspected some of the important forest tracts in the Panch Maháls, he will no doubt be prepared to move in the matter. It is to be regretted that Mr. Lely had not the opportunity, owing to his absence on leave, of recording his remarks on the Surat Divisional Officer's report.

G. B. REID,
Commissioner, N. D.

CENTRAL CIRCLE.

No. 5844 of 1895-96.

From

THE HONOURABLE MR. A. T. SHUTTLEWORTH,
Conservator of Forests, Central Circle ;

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Revenue Department,
Bombay.

*Camp Songaon, Poona District :
Dated 13th December 1895.*

SIR,

I have the honour to submit herewith the Forest Administration Report of the Central Circle for the Forest year 1894-95, together with its prescribed subsidiary statements.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

A. T. SHUTTLEWORTH,
Conservator of Forests, Central Circle.

THROUGH THE COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL DIVISION.